

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: May 17, 2016

4-APD
2-ABSENT
6/14/16

ATTENDING: ALLEN, BANDZIERZ, NOVECK, SCARBRO, SWANSON

ABSENT: BERKEL

OTHERS ATTENDING: Kevin Zurrin

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 4:08PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: April 26, 2016 (not done)
May 3, 2016 (Town Meeting)**

**NOTICES: Bandzierz has requested reappointment for 3 years
Laura Allen, after discussion, will request reappointment for 3 years
Finance Committee appointments to be made 5/23/16
Appointees for FC are Tom and Rocky (SB) Bruce and Mary**

HANDOUTS:

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORTS:

April 30, 2016 (Laura noted many errors in the Expenditure Report which she highlighted and will give to Paul Lisi, town accountant. She also will request the detail on account for snow and ice expenses and snow and ice wages in lieu of the high expenses indicated on the Expenditure Report.

AGENDA:

Recap of May 3, 2016 Town Meeting – Eric Swanson brought up the process the town moderator currently uses when going through the warrant. He voiced his opinion (and others on the committee) that there were ways to streamline town meeting while also providing necessary information to the towns' people. The Committee also discussed that it would be beneficial for townspeople to have department heads available at town meeting to answer questions regarding their budgets, rather than having the Finance Committee or Board of Selectmen speak for them. The Finance Committee can defend its recommendations. However, it was a consensus of the committee that it would be helpful if the department heads were to answer the citizens questions as they arise. Laura informed the committee that Tom Berkel was also preparing a position paper dealing with town meeting changes, etc. Other prospective changes will be presented by the Committee to the Board of Selectmen for discussion with the hope that the meeting becomes more informative for all and takes less time than the 4 and ½ hours on May 3rd.

Update on broadband - Eric noted that the Broadband Committee had prepared an RFP for consultants to work with the Committee on bringing broadband to Egremont. MBI is reformatting itself and trying to figure out how best to help those unserved or underserved towns get broadband service. At this time the towns have no idea of what format for reimbursement the state will come up with. Ralph noted that New Marlborough was looking at Matrix who would provide funding on a 2/3, 1/3 basis for handling the costs of constructing the network that would bring broadband to New Marlborough. Ralph is following up on the status of this "deal".

It was noted that Brian Shaw would be retiring as Police Chief in July of 2016 and Rocky is one of the appointees to the police chief search committee. It was noted that this was once again a chance to review having the state police cover the 3rd shift, reducing the town's costs for police services. There may also be other ways to share police services.

Looking forward to the budgeting process for 2017 the Finance Committee noted that there were employees/department heads in charge of preparing budgets which could benefit from having experienced financial types' aid in preparing their budgets. The Finance Committee needs to get the word out about their availability and willingness to assist those department heads who need such help. It would make the budgeting process much more accurate, timely and transparent. Although the department heads are qualified to run their departments, they do not necessarily have the financial qualifications which would enable them to prepare departmental budgets.

The Compensation Committee will be looking at reviews and helping to determine compensation of the Exempted Employees. How to go forward with this Committee and the role it will play is being discussed.

2016 Budget

2017 Budget

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>VOTED</u>
NONE			

END OF YEAR TRANSFERS:

<u>FROM ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>TO ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>VOTED</u>
NONE			

CARRYOVERS FROM 2016 -2017

NONE

OFFICIALS' ITEMS:

CITIZENS' ITEMS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS/UPDATES:

Water Department – Follow implementation of audit items/Tom-Mike

Water Dept retained earnings (2016- \$)

Latest filing by FD re: 990 (last in FC file 2006) (Eric)

Compensation Committee (ongoing Mike/Eric)

Broadband

See Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Salary surveys regarding compensation (150 towns participated) See MMA Summer, page 15. What about our surrounding towns? Calls, etc

What does it cost to run departments in Egremont?

Southern Berkshire Regional School District- Bond Issue

FEMA grant for Fire Department – errors in grant application

Financial Policies and Procedures Manual (We need to develop)

Next Finance Committee meeting: June 14, 2016 at 4:00PM

ADJOURNED: 5:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Allen, Acting Secretary